

How to Use Swedish Church Records

Savannah Larson, AG®

HISTORY

1686	A law was passed requiring parish records to be kept
1753	Transition from Julian to Gregorian Calendar
1830s	Gothic handwriting starts to phase out and is replaced by Latin letters
1860	Parish Records start to use a standardized form
1865	Record of missing persons is kept by the parish. The parish uses this in tandem with the tax authorities.
1895	Församlingsbok replaces the husförhör
1860-1947	Arkivdigital has an index of Household records during this time+period. Similar indexes are available on FamilySearch.org, MyHeritage, and Ancestry.com



Strategy

1. *Start with what you know*

Information from FamilySearch often includes a place and date, if the person you want to learn more about, doesn't. Try researching one of their children first and working your way back.

2. Find a vital record

Births, Marriages and deaths are typically the easiest to find based on starting information in the tree. The following FamilySearch Wiki articles may be helpful to you as you begin your research.

- [Sweden Church Records](#) – A list of Swedish records available online, including links to the provider website and a history of Swedish church records, what different records include and how they are organized.
- [Sweden Guided Research](#) – This tool will help you to quickly access FamilySearch's available birth, marriage and death collections for Sweden. It will also show other online sources that are available for the same kinds of records.

3. Look for the farm name on the vital record

View the image, not just the index, vital records will often list where a person is from in the parish, this information is helpful as you try to trace you family through other records. If you're struggling to determine what the name of the farm is, use one of the following gazetteer to determine the place name:

- [Ortnamnsregistret](#) – Click on "Fler sökalternativ" to search for county and parish
- [FamilySearch Wiki](#) – Select the county > select the parish > scroll down to the place names section of the page and search through the place names

4. Use the farm name to locate the family in household examination records

Indexes to Household Records are available on FamilySearch, Arkivdigital, Riksarkivet, Ancestry, and MyHeritage. Most of these indexes don't search before 1860. Image viewing and browsing is available on FamilySearch, Arkivdigital, Riksarkivet, Ancestry, and MyHeritage.

You can confirm that you have the right person by the place they are living in, their age and relationships.

- [Sweden Household Examination Records \(Husförhörslängder\)](#) – An article explaining what Household Examination Records are, where you can find them, and what information they include.

5. Follow the family through household examination records.

Now that you've found one household record, you can move forward and back in time. Are there any notes on the page about the family moving? If not, search the previous/next book in the same farm. If you can't find them in the previous/next book on the same farm, search a later vital record to see if they moved.

6. Verify vital information in the Household Records by searching for vital records

7. Repeat as needed